

Recent Babylonian Discoveries.

A party sent out by the French government have recently made some very important discoveries at Babylon that throw much light on the civilization and people that dwelt there nearly 4,500 years ago. Moses has usually been recognized as the oldest law giver, but the French party has unearthed a code of 280 separate laws that governed Babylon in the days when Abraham's father, Terah, was a resident there, nearly 500 years before the time of Moses. Here are a few extracts from the code:

If any one brings an accusation of any crime before the elders, and does not prove what he has charged, he shall, if it be a capital offense, be put to death.

If a son strike his father, his hands shall be cut off.

If any one destroy the eye of another, his own eye shall be destroyed.

If any one break out the tooth of another, his own tooth shall be broken out.

If a physician makes an operation on any one with a knife, and heals him, or if he opens a tumor and the eye is uninfected, he shall receive ten shekels of gold.

If a physician makes an operation with a knife and kills his patient, or opens a tumor with the knife and the eye is destroyed, then his hands shall be cut off.

For a broken bone, or ordinary disease, the fee was five shekels for a citizen, three for a freedman and two for a slave. If he operated on an ox or an ass his fee was a sixth of a shekel, but if the animal died he had to pay a quarter of a shekel to the owner.

The code fixes wages by the day and the year for service. A common working man was paid six gerahs a day for five months, from April to August, and five a day for the other months, with their shorter days and less exhaustive labor.

The laws of marriage and inheritance are minute, and meant to be just to the woman as well as the man. The property rights of divorced wives were carefully guarded. Slander against the character of a betrothed or married woman is punished with a brand on the forehead.

Marriage and divorce are provided for. One clause reads: "If any one takes a wife, and she gives her maid to her husband, and the maid bears children, and thereupon claims equality to her mistress, since she has borne him children, the master can not sell her for money, but the mistress shall reduce her to slavery and count her among the maid servants."

It will be seen that there is a similarity between the old Babylonian laws and those of Bible times. It is very probable that the Hebrews obtained their knowledge of law from the more civilized people of the east.

Besides the code of laws found, there are columns and tablets containing deeds, bills of sale, leases, mortgages and many other legal forms that are very similar to those in vogue at the present day.

Then there are some items of history that are quite interesting. Hammurabi, the king, who lived between 2,300 and 2,400 years B. C., and is supposed to have been identical with Amraphel, king of Shinar, mentioned in Genesis 14-1. This king raised levees along the Tigris to shut out destructive floods and dug great irrigation canals that brought the great plains into cultivation. Hammurabi is called a "King of Righteousness," which reminds one of Abraham's reference to Melchisedek King of Salem.

Here is an extract taken from the column: "Hammurabi, the King of Righteousness, on whom Shamash has bestowed right (or law) am I. My words are well considered; my deeds have not their equal; to bring low those that are haughty; to expel insolence. If a succeeding ruler considers my words, which I have written in this my inscription, if he does not annul my law, does not corrupt my words nor change my monument, then may Shamash (the sun god) lengthen that King's reign, like that of me, the King of Righteousness, that he may reign in righteousness over his subjects."

One effect of these discoveries seems to remove the time of the flood to a period more remote than that assigned to it in Bible chronology. The records so far discovered do not throw any new light upon the history of the flood, although the sons of Noah and perhaps Noah himself, were undoubtedly living at the time that Hammurabi reigned at Babylon. It is not improbable, though, that as the work progresses, discoveries may be made that will clean up questions pertaining to the flood, to the tower of Babel,

to the confusion of tongues, and the dividing of the earth, that have long been subject to discussion. Further information will be looked for with interest.

Modern Football.

The applicant for a place on the college football team was not through a long and rigid examination. Following are the questions asked by the captain and the answers of the applicant:

Q.—Age?

A.—Nineteen.

Q.—Weight?

A.—Hundred and sixty-four.

Q.—Knuckles hard?

A.—I can crack a boiler plate with 'em.

Q.—Good biter?

A.—Bit an iron spike in two.

Q.—Good kicker?

A.—Kicked a man's lung out.

Q.—What would you do if you were running toward the enemy's goal with the ball and their crack player tackled you?

A.—I would throw the ball to my support, after which I would tackle the tackle.

Q.—Please explain.

A.—I would place my right arm under his chin and my left over his knees, then I would bend his back over my right knee until his spine cracked, after which I would jump up and down on him with my spikes.

Q.—How would you amuse him while doing this?

A.—I would permit him to chew my my thumb.

Q.—Suppose you found yourself the under man in a pile up?

A.—I would eat my way out.

Q.—How would you tackle the heavy-weight tackle?

A.—I would first butt a hole through his vitals, and before he recovered from the shock I would pick him up and throw him over the grand stand.

Q.—Suppose you were defeated in doing this?

A.—Then I would swallow the ball stand pat.

Q.—What are the three cardinal indispenables of a football game?

A.—A doctor, an ambulance and a hospital.

Q.—Anything else?

A.—A funeral.

Q.—You cherish no personal ill feeling against the members of opposite teams?

A.—Not in the least.

Q.—I understand that you know nothing of the technical points of the game?

A.—That is true.

Q.—That will do; please sign here.—Boston Post.

EDUCATION FOR FARMERS AND MECHANICS.

Special Winter Courses in Agriculture, Domestic Science and Art, and Mechanic Arts begin Jan. 6th. For full information address Agricultural College, Logan, Utah. 16 A 3

Lewiston, Dec. 23, '02.

EDITOR REPUBLICAN:—

It does a person good to ride over the Lewiston roads compared with other parts of the county. They are frozen solid and as smooth as a floor.

Our holiday season begins today with an old folks program at 10:30 a. m. which will consume the time during the forenoon. In the afternoon lunch will be served in connection with different prizes that will be given as follows: A prize will be given to the father of the most children. A prize to the mother of the most children. The best looking old gentleman will receive a prize, also a prize will be given to the best looking old lady. It is expected that a part of the Stake County Committee will be present to take part in the program, in connection with Prof. Thomas from Smithfield, who will render us something in the line of music.

It is expected that other similar gatherings will be held during the holiday season. There has been a disposition with some of our boys to leave home and ramble a little. One started out a short time ago but soon returned. When he mixed up with strangers it brought him to his senses and he thought of "home sweet home" and like the prodigal son of old, returned home thoroughly penitent. Last Sunday two more boys aged fourteen and fifteen years, took their departure for the north. They were stopped at Pocatello and will be brought back. All such boys that prefer a transient life to that of a good home and good parents, should be let go until they learn by the experience they suffer. Boys stay at home, don't be foolish. Instead of causing parents additional troubles, try to relieve them of what they already have.

The health of the people is generally good, the old and the young will have a happy time during holidays. And why shouldn't they?

Yours Anon.

The Senatorial Question.

"Truth," a Salt Lake City publication, is authority for the statement that Senator Kearns is coming home to take a hand in the election of a U. S. Senator, that there is an understanding between him and Perry Heath, and that he will use his influence to secure the election of Heath to the Senate; that the obstacle in the way is Reed Smoot; that the National committee has been appealed to to use its influence on President Joseph F. Smith to get him to call Smoot off. Failing in this they will bring other influences to bear and if unsuccessful they will call in the Ministerial Association, and through them the religious and patriotic societies of the country, and they will make it very interesting for Mr. Smoot when he presents himself at the bar of the Senate, by confronting him with petitions signed by more or less than 10,000,000 people, asking that he be deigned a seat.

We do not know just how much truth there is in the above surmise, but it has been evident for some time that there is a strong opposition to Smoot, not justified altogether by the fact that he holds an ecclesiastical position. Some time ago a certain paper published two or three pages of comments taken from eastern papers opposing Smoot's election. It now develops that the question was called to the attention of the eastern press and it was asked to comment on the election of a Mormon Apostle to the Senate and send marked copies to the paper mentioned for publication. The object, of course, was to impress the members of the legislature that that the country would not tolerate Smoot in the Senate. We do not believe the members of the legislature will be influenced by what the eastern press may say when the material is prepared for it in Salt Lake City.

We have no special choice for the Senate but would oppose any man who came here with the idea in his mind that all he had to do was to toady to the presidency of the church and he could secure any political office he might desire. Ike Trumbo had that idea some time ago, and later Tom Fitch got imbued with it, and now—well if Perry S. Heath has any such idea the sooner he gets rid of it the better he will be off. They should understand that the president of the church does not carry the senatorship or any other state office around in his vest pocket, no matter if some one has given them that impression. Furthermore, if Senator Kearns has entered into any such arrangement as that outlined above, his chances for re-election would be worth a last year's birds nest.

The heavy snow fall throughout Colorado is causing a blockade on almost all of the roads running into Denver. The Union Pacific and Burlington are both confronted with snowdrifts from six to ten feet deep along their lines. Weather reports indicate that the storm is moving west and will likely reach us in time to give us sleighing for Christmas.

George Austin of the Utah Sugar Co., has recently visited the Spreckels sugar plant at Salinas in California, which is said to be the largest beet sugar plant in the world. The factory consumes 3,000 tons of beets daily and has a capacity of 500,000 tons during the season. The beet sheds are 800 feet long. Half a train of beets are taken and unloaded at a time, by machinery. Wagons are also unloaded by machinery at a very trifling cost and with very little delay. By the time Utah has been in the sugar business as long as California has, we will probably be able to show some plants that will discount that at Salinas.

Payson, Dec. 21.—The Farmers' institute, that was held here Friday night by Profs. Widtsoe and Ball of the Agricultural college of Utah, was largely attended. The meeting was held in the Second Ward meeting house, and continued until after 10:30 p. m.

The work of the Agricultural college and experimental station was dwelt upon by both of the professors, and the discussion brought out the remarkable fact that many citizens of as live a town as Payson know nothing of the aims and work of the most important agricultural institution of the State. Other topics were: "The Necessity of Farmers Keeping Abreast of the Times," "Intensive Farming," "Farmers' Organizations," "Rotation of Crops," "The Coding Moth and Other Insect Pests." The farmers of Payson are a set of intelligent, progressive men who welcome anything that will help in making their life work more satisfactory and profitable.

If farmers' institutes could be held in this city once every month, or at least two during the year, it would awaken an unparalleled interest in better methods of farming.—Tribune

Christmas Observance.

Let it be remembered during your Christmas celebration that there is a significance attached to it aside from its gladness. It is the celebration of the anniversary of the most sacred event in the history of the world—commemorating the birth of Jesus—A Gift from God to the World!

Consequently the appropriate celebration of it by giving gifts to friends and those we love. A most beautiful custom, making glad, sad hearts and giving joy to the despondent.

That it is sometimes, yes often, celebrated without any thought of its significance is true; and sad is the fact, but it is also true that it is ignorantly celebrated by many in drunkenness and debauchery. Instead of the celebration being the source of joy and happiness, it is made the source of misery and despair. May be the fruits are not immediately gathered by those who engage in the abuse of the Christmas time but the harvest will come. The seed are sown. What you sow you must reap. That's inevitable. If the reaping comes in the declining years, when life seems already overburdened, so much the worse.

Let your Christmas then be merry and joyous, but do not let it annually mark a period of degeneracy in your life. As a citizen of the United States you enjoy the merriment, and as a citizen should respect its sacredness. Whether a Christian or not, you are a citizen of a Christian Nation and enjoy the blessings bestowed upon that nation by Him of Whom the angels sang: "On earth peace, good will toward men."

Let Christmas do you good and not harm. Look upon it as Dickens causes Scrooge's nephew to see it in "A Christmas Carol," when in answer to old Scrooge's declaration that it has never done him any good, the nephew says:

"There are many things from which I might have derived good by which I have not profited, I dare say Christmas among the rest. I am sure I have always thought of Christmas time, when it came round—apart from the veneration due to its sacred name and origin, if anything belonging to it can be apart from that—as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open up their shut-up hearts freely and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it HAS done me good, and WILL do me good; and I say God bless it!"

Let your Christmas be that charitable, forgiving happy time; one time at least in the year when you look with kindness upon those about you; and, though you are an old Scrooge the rest of the year, Christmas will do you good; and you can heartily say, God bless it!

WINTER COURSES.

Beginning Jan. 6th next, the Agricultural College, Logan, Utah, offers Winter Courses in the different subjects of Agriculture, Domestic Science and Art, and Mechanic Arts. Students taking these courses may pursue any other subjects for which they are prepared.

Newton Notes.

The Primary association have been working for some time past on a bazaar which was held Friday last and was a great success. A great many articles exhibited were made by the officers and members of the association and every thing was sold at a good price and a nice little sum was left after the expenses were paid.

The Sunday schools are preparing a Christmas tree and an entertainment for the children to be given Christmas eve.

Providence is figuring on an electric light plant to be owned by the town. It is claimed that at a very little cost they can build a canal that will give them 800 feet fall, and that the stream at all seasons is large enough to furnish 600 horse power. This would be sufficient power to supply all of Providence and have some to spare to furnish Logan. The proposition is now under consideration by the town officials and if not taken up by them a company will be incorporated and private capital furnished.

The Home Telephone Franchise.

The city council is now considering the question of granting a franchise to the Utah Home Co. to operate in our city. We hope the question will not be decided hastily but given most careful consideration and when action is taken every safe-guard possible will be placed upon the people's interests.

We understand that the new company proposes to cut in two the present rates charged by the R. M. B. Co., and that it is willing to pay a part of its earnings into the public treasury. If this is true, it should have a favorable effect upon the council.

There is another phase of the situation that we hope the council will bear in mind during its discussions.

That there is a strong and growing sentiment in this city towards public ownership of public utilities. The steps taken towards city ownership of the electric light system is an outgrowth of this sentiment. While we are not in shape now to take up the question of public ownership of a local telephone system, it will only be a few years before we will be in a position to reach out in that direction.

If a franchise is granted the new company, this point should be borne in mind and provisions made for the city to purchase the same at the net cost or a fair cash valuation. Further than this, there should be a provision that all profits over a fair interest on the investment should be paid into the city treasury. A great many eastern cities have exchanges conducted on this principle and in many instances the monthly rental is only a nominal amount, and yet a fair return is made on the investment. Before final action is taken by the council, their proposed action should be submitted to the people in a mass meeting and the wishes of the people on the question obtained. But we believe if some such restrictions as above outlined are incorporated in the franchise the people will approve the action.

Hyrum Notes.

Hyrum Stake conference was held at Hyrum Sunday and Monday. There was a very large attendance.

On Sunday the bishops of the various wards reported the progress of church matters there.

Apostle Merrill was in attendance and addressed the conference Sunday. He urged the people to live their religion, keep the commandments of God, and train up their children to be virtuous and to respect their parents and the priesthood and to honor God. The burden of much of the talk was to keep out of debt. The times are good and we should take advantage of them and free ourselves from bondage. All of the speakers Sunday spoke on the divine mission of Joseph Smith.

Sunday evening the Stake Mutual Improvement Association met. A fine program was rendered. The First Ward Glee Club sang and Miss Larsen gave a very interesting narrative of the life of Joseph Smith. A fine song was sung by two young ladies of the Millville society.

Remarks were made by the Stake officers, all bearing on the life and labors of Joseph Smith.

The Nielsen Brothers have put a new floor in the opera house that will make that the best dancing floor in the town. The first dance will be held Christmas eve.

Jos. C. Anderson, who has been confined to his home for six weeks with a broken leg, was over to Logan Tuesday.

Owing to the rehearsals of "Corlinton," the First Ward Sunday school will not give a ball at the opera house Friday evening as was intended.

Santa Claus will be here to-morrow. In all the wards he has made arrangements to meet the children and have a right nice time with them. It will be a day of happiness and rejoicing to nearly every body. We will wish it might be made so to all; but perhaps there are a few to whom Christmas will come cold and cheerless. Santa Claus has made no appointment to call at their houses. We wish that those who are happy might remember those who are not, and to-morrow when every thing seems bright with us, we will pause just long enough to say a kind word and give a hearty hand shake to those who are bowed down with trouble and care; impart to them some of the joy we feel in life, and see if but for one day we can not lighten the burdens they carry. There may be children in town that Santa Claus has overlooked who will not be at the ward houses to meet him unless they are sought out and asked to come. They should all be there and made to feel that they are welcome. He who died on Calvary and whose birth we celebrate to-morrow, did not die for any special class of people. He meant the benefits of His atonement to ap-

ply, to all rich and poor, bond and free; and we in generous remembrance of the act should open our hearts and cast in our mites to bring peace on earth and to all men good will.

A New Poet.

Clarence E. Eddy of Idaho, has sent us a copy of a collection of poems which he has published under the title of "The Pinnacle of Paradox," with a request that we comment on the same. The author hails from Moscow and his subjects generally were suggested by his environments in Western Idaho. His first poem bears the suggestive title, "If there isn't a hell, there ought to be," and begins as follows:

There is a place, so preachers tell
The proper name whereof is hell.
Though, in the presence of the ladies
We simply speak of it as hades.

Yet there are many without grace
Who say that there is no such place.
That hell in fact is but a myth.
Got up to scare the sinners with.

Yes there was old Bob Ingersoll
Who taught there was no hell at all
But now forsooth that he is dead
He has learned better, so 'tis said.

The song of the old pioneer runs as follows:

There's a hero I adore
Full as much, or even more
Than the heroes of whose fame we
often hear:
He is bent and old and gray
And he hasn't long to stay
He is known as the old pioneer.

The Lost River watermaster is immortalized as follows:

On Lost River lives a fellow
Whose hair is very yellow
He is in love with all the girls, so they
say.

Dick Osborn is his name
And altho unknown to fame
He's a corker in a quiet sort of way.

But he may seem tame
He can get there just the same.
He's the fellow that crossed up in
women's clothes

And lookin' like the wimmin
When the boys were in a swimmin'
Kept them scared beneath the water
till they froze.

The rhythm and the meter seems to be alright, but probably we would think better of the poems if we were more familiar with the surroundings that suggested them. The book is sold by Salt Lake dealers, at 50c a copy.

It is generally an accepted rule that you can judge the character of the inhabitants of a community by the condition of its streets and sidewalks. Of course there are exceptions to all rules. We hope that Logan is one of the exceptions. Logan has a population of six thousand. It contains two of the leading education institutions of the state. Nine months out of every year its business men and other residents receive the support of about fifteen hundred students. The Agricultural College and the Brigham Young College engage about forty of the leading educators of the country who make their homes permanently in Logan. It contains a prosperous sugar factory. Besides these, many other enterprises tend to make the "Temple City" an up-to-date community. Despite these facts, Logan undoubtedly has the worst streets and sidewalks of any city in Utah. In the muddiest seasons of the year, it is almost an impossibility to navigate through the main streets, not to mention the suburbs. At the present time it is no small feat to travel from the business part of town to the Agricultural College. There is a cause for every effect. The public should know the cause and, if possible, remove it. It cannot be lack of material, for right at our very doors are whole hills of gravel waiting to be distributed. It cannot be lack of means, for the cost of this gravel is so little that five dollars would repair the walk in front of any ordinary lot in town. According to a recent estimate, indeed, the sum of money paid in Logan for overhauls during the last five years would give us perfect sidewalks throughout the city.—Student Life.

The Home Telephone Co. have accepted the franchise granted by Salt Lake City and deposited a bond of \$25,000 as required by the ordinance. The ordinance provides that the city can purchase the plant at any time it desires, at an agreed price, or can condemn same. It is also provided that a certain percent of the gross revenues shall be turned into the city treasury.